

DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES, SOUTH-SOUTH SOLUTIONS

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1) Made-in-Africa Fashion Brand Pioneers Aim for Global Success

African fashion brands have not always been the first place fashionistas turned to when shopping for new clothes or shoes in developed economies. While Africa has long been a source of inspiration in contemporary and traditional fashion, the continent has had a weak reputation for manufacturing and selling mass market global fashion brands.

There are initiatives, such as Origin Africa (<http://originafrica.org/>), an on-going campaign working to improve African trade by increasing the trade of textiles and apparels, cut flowers, specialty foods, home décor, and fashion accessories. Origin Africa matches African designers and entrepreneurs with experienced industry leaders to "facilitate, coordinate and advance 'trade, not aid' efforts".

While there are many places in Africa engaged in the global clothing manufacturing outsource industry - often paying very low wages - strong African fashion brands are often absent in most developed countries. Well, at least until now.

Two recent examples have joined the well-publicized success of Ethiopia's soleRebels, maker of rubber-soled shoes (solerebelsfootwear.com). SoleRebels became an Internet success story, harnessing the power of web-based sales to reach customers around the world.

Now another Ethiopian shoe maker is also pushing its way into the global fashion scene. Ethiopian-made sneaker brand Sawa (www.sawashoes.com) has just been picked up by the American retailer of preppy clothing J. Crew (www.jcrew.com). The successful catalogue and online clothing retailer has great clout when it comes to promoting a brand, and this should be a big boost to the reputation of African fashion labels.

Sawa's headquarters is in Paris, France (the physical home of much of the world's fashion scene) but all its shoes are sourced and made in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital, and the company's website is run from there.

Sawa says the key to its success is to be a business first and foremost - not a charity.

"Sawa project does not have the so-called generosity of brands which use Africa just to glorify themselves," said Wendesen Birhanu, on the company website.

"Sawa is a fashion brand which has taken the challenge to fabricate shoes in Africa. All the added value benefits the continent."

The company's shoe factory is modern and has the workers positioned at their desks making the shoes. The brand logo proudly states "Made in Africa" on all the brown cardboard shoe boxes in a bold, red roundel stamp.

Sawa also uses the slogan "vote with your feet" to show the connection between purchasing the shoes and supporting African business and manufacturing.

The footwear, currently available in the United Kingdom, France and through J. Crew in the United States, has a distinctive rubber sole with the African continent embossed on the bottom - a clever design tweak ensuring the wearers will leave an interesting footprint wherever they walk.

The styles available include Dr Bess, a vintage canvas and leather shoe in a low-cut silhouette. The Tsague is a vintage shoe with a mid-cut like that used for basketball shoes.

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The shoes have been put through their paces in an independent quality assurance lab and each shoe's details are explained on the Sawa website

(http://www.sawashoes.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2&Itemid=8&lang=en).

They retail in Europe for between 75 euros and 115 euros a pair - a middle-market price - and come in eye-pleasing colours, from basic black to white to sand, dark blue, grey, brown, red and light blue.

Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Small_and_medium_enterprises) have been identified as an essential part of Africa's future prosperity and key to its ability to reduce poverty and achieve development objectives like the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) (www.un.org/millenniumgoals).

Obstacles to growth for SMEs include poor infrastructure, unreliable power supplies, unscaleable business models, low quality standards and poor quality branding and design.

Developing manufacturing in Africa is key to improving incomes and wealth. Creating unique, branded products for overseas markets makes it possible to earn foreign currency and be able to benefit from consumers in other countries. The math is simple: once you have saturated the local market for your product, the only way to boost sales and profits is to seek new customers elsewhere. By selling to people in a country with a higher national income, it is possible to charge more and in turn earn more money for each product. In time, this can lead to significant income rises and in turn, human development gains as the spare cash can be put to improving local living conditions, acquiring education or better health services and consuming better quality food.

Another important feature of selling to overseas customers is competition. Having to compete with the pick of the world's top brands means a company must raise its game to stand a chance. The pressure forces the company to sharpen its product line, become more efficient, stick to strict quality control and embrace the latest thinking in design, marketing and information technologies.

In short, an African company that can weather a few years successfully selling to overseas customers is going to be a fierce competitor back home.

And, as has been forecast many times, the rise of Africa's middle class consumers will be a big driver of economic growth in the next decade. If this middle-income consumer class buys lots of African-made consumer products, then the impact on job and wealth creation on the continent will be significant.

Another fashion initiative boosting brand Africa is a partnership between Italian fashion lifestyle clothing retailer Diesel (diesel.com) and the Edun ethical fashion label (edun.com), founded by Ali Hewson and her husband Bono, singer with rock band U2.

The collaboration offers a contemporary take on retro street wear from Africa's past, while having all the garments made and sourced from Africa.

In March 2013, Diesel+EDUN launched a 25-piece denim collection drawing its inspiration from African creativity. The collection uses raw, untreated denim sourced and manufactured in Uganda. It mixes up Malian textile prints for linings, with outside embroidery drawing on traditional Zulu weaving patterns. It also includes a denim jacket inspired by street wear from 1970s South Africa.

Edun was originally set up to encourage greater trade with Africa as a way to address poverty and boost incomes. Begun in 2005, the brand has tried to overturn the perception that ethical and ecologically sound fashion can't be fashionable and desirable too.

Edun has sought to be "a creative force in contemporary fashion", according to its website. In 2007, it launched a line dedicated to making t-shirts entirely made in Africa called Edun Live. Edun Live t-shirts "are entirely 'Grow to Sew' African. From cotton to finished tee, all production takes place in Africa."

Edun has the goal of producing 40 per cent of its fashion collection in Africa by 2013. It does this by "supporting manufacturers, infrastructure and community building initiatives".

All of Edun's cotton is harvested to CCIU cotton standards. The Conservation Cotton Initiative Uganda (CCIU) is a cotton-farming program that helps to build sustainable farming communities in Northern Uganda.

Edun is currently working in Kenya, Morocco, Madagascar, Uganda and Tunisia.

The Diesel+EDUN (<http://www.diesel.com/diesel+edun/>) collaboration had its start at the beginning of 2012. After trips to East and West Africa by Diesel founder Renzo Rosso and Edun founders Ali Hewson and Bono, the idea was hatched to work together to "further apparel trade and development in Africa". The goal is "bringing business to the continent and highlighting to the fashion world the possibility for sustainable trade and creative opportunity in Africa."

More than 5,000 farmers participated in the 2011/2012 CCIU program, and more than 8,000 have already enrolled in the 2012/2013 season, the website states.

Edun is also working with Mikono Knits (Mikonoknits.com) to promote traditional African knitting techniques. Founded in 2005 by Froydis Dybahl Archer, Mikono makes and sells hand-crocheted sweaters and tank tops from its Nairobi, Kenya workshop. The plan is to use the success of Mikono Knits to expand the number

of underprivileged women the firm can hire to work for the business. The business currently employs 10 women and uses locally sourced organic cotton and wool, supporting the local economy.

Beyond the actual clothing partnership and African-inspired fashion, there is a clever promotion campaign to raise awareness for the Diesel+EDUN line. Called Studio Africa (<http://studioafrica.tumblr.com/>), it is a marketing and perception-shaping initiative, "celebrating and promoting creativity in Africa". It is doing this by promoting nine African artists to better communicate the African vibe of the collection and give the artists' careers a boost. It is curated and edited by Okay Africa (<http://www.okayafrica.com/>), a cultural guide to "all the latest music/culture/politics coming from Africa and the Diaspora".

LINKS:

- 1) Africa Fashion International: African Fashion International (AFI) is the leading Fashion authority on the African continent and is committed to the promotion and development of the best South African design talent. **Website:** <http://afi.za.com/>
- 2) Origin Africa: Origin Africa is an ongoing campaign and initiative dedicated to improving African trade. Comprised of producers, designers, small businesses, exporters, buyers and retailers, it is working to develop, guide and promote African trade in the following sectors: textiles/apparel, cut flowers, specialty foods, home décor, and fashion accessories. **Website:** <http://originafrica.org/>
- 3) SoleRebels: Ethiopia's soleRebels profiled in Southern Innovator Magazine Issue 2. **Website:** <http://www.scribd.com/doc/106055335/Southern-Innovator-Magazine-Issue-2-Youth-and-Entrepreneurship>
- 4) How we made it in Africa: A great website packed with inspirational people and stories on business success in Africa. **Website:** <http://www.howwemadeitinafrica.com/>
- 5) Nigerian shoe and garment maker Fut Conceptus has been taking raw Nigerian leather that was once just sent overseas for export, and instead is turning out high-quality shoes and bags made in Nigerian factories. **Website:** futconceptus.com
- 6) SME Toolkit South Africa: A website packed with resources and support for anyone starting a small business in Africa. **Website:** <http://southafrica.smetoolkit.org/sa/en>
- 7) African Guarantee Fund for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises: The AGF provides guarantees and technical assistance to financial institutions in Africa with the objective of generating enhanced growth in the SME sector and increasing employment opportunities in the economy, particularly for youth. **Website:** www.afdb.org/en/topics-and-sectors/initiatives-partnerships/african-guarantee-fund-for-small-and-medium-sized-enterprises/
- 8) Small and Medium Enterprise Support, East Africa: A blog promoting events and support for SMEs in East Africa. **Website:** <http://smeseastafrica.blogspot.com/>
- 9) Integrating Developing Countries' SMEs into Global Value Chains: A paper from UNCTAD (2010). **Website:** http://www.unctad.org/en/docs/diaeed20095_en.pdf

2) Kenyan Book Company Brings Online Sales to East Africa

The Internet has revolutionized retail sales in many developed countries - and nowhere more so than for booksellers. The ability to offer an almost unlimited supply of books through a website is revolutionizing the way people shop and giving life to books long out of print or by unknown authors.

Kenya has recently gained a reputation for doing things differently in Africa and making great strides when it comes to using information technologies. And the next development in this story is the launch of a Kenyan online book shop modelled on the successful U.S. online bookseller Amazon (amazon.com).

A book boom is well underway across the global South. Literary festivals continue to expand, from Colombia in South America to India to Nigeria in West Africa, and so do sales of books, newspapers and magazines. While the publishing industries in developed countries despair at the impact of digital media on their profits, in the global South, rising prosperity and literacy are fuelling greater interest in reading and a growing print publishing industry. For example, India is experiencing 15-per-cent-a-year growth for its publishing industry, which is valued at nearly US \$2 billion (Frankfurt Book Fair).

Kenya's Text Book Centre (TCB) (textbookcentre.com), considered one of the country's most reputable booksellers, has launched its own online book selling portal and its "eBook web store". It is targeting readers across East Africa and sells books in 14 categories. Being Kenyan, it is taking an innovative approach that recognizes the large numbers of people who are doing all their transactions over mobile phones. The book portal allows customers to make purchases with their mobile phones using mobile money. This system uses the Kopo Kopo (kopokopo.com) software platform, which allows small and medium sized businesses to accept mobile phone payments.

Kopo Kopo was first developed in Sierra Leone in 2011, before being further prototyped in Kenya. Kopo Kopo wanted to develop an effective mobile platform to help small and medium sized businesses to better interact with their customers. The Kopo Kopo service was officially launched in February 2012 and is partnered with Safaricom, using its M-PESA Buy Goods service. It is being currently used by hundreds of businesses, from "salons to restaurants to office supply stores", according to Kopo Kopo's website.

As an added benefit, the Kenyan online book platform is joined by a new marketplace for thousands of African ebooks. This part of the service is called eKitabu (ekitabu.com).

EKitabu will be a big boost to the continent's authors and also open up new opportunities for budding authors who previously would have struggled to get published and distribute their work. If the ebook web store follows the dynamic of online booksellers in more developed markets, then this ability to gain exposure for author's work and find an audience could also attract bigger publishers and spark interest in international book deals for formerly obscure writers.

The Text Book Centre was founded in 1964 by two Indian business partners in Kenya, Mr. SV Shah and Mr. MJ Rughani, and is now considered the leading bookstore in Kenya, specializing in leisure and educational books, according to its website.

Headquartered in Nairobi's central business district, it focuses on providing books for the educational sector and strives to be "East Africa's leading leisure and educational bookstore and office support resource centre". It also supplies to customers in Uganda, Sudan, Somalia, Malawi, Zanzibar and Tanzania.

LINKS:

- 1) Tara Books: Based in Chennai, India, the book publisher is a co-operative and has published 200,000 hand-made books since its founding in 1994. **Website:** <http://www.tarabooks.com/>
- 2) Pathlight: A Beijing, China-based literary magazine with new writing and poetry. **Website:** <http://paper-republic.org/pubs/pathlight/>
- 3) "Indian readers keep publishing industry on growth track". **Website:** http://hclondon.in/headlines_1686.html
- 4) African Publishers Network (APNET): APNET's vision is the transformation of African peoples through books. APNET's mission is to strengthen African publishing through networking, training, trade promotion, Intellectual Property (IP) and advocacy, in partnership with other stakeholders, to fully meet Africa's need for quality, relevant books. **Website:** <http://www.african-publishers.net/>

3) African Innovation Helps Make Banking Transactions Safer

As economies grow in Africa, more and more people are conducting their financial transactions electronically. This can be either through mobile phones and digital devices, or through the hole-in-the-wall of the automatic teller machine, or ATM.

These short cuts mean many people no longer have to endure long line-ups at banks to conduct day-to-day financial transactions. This convenience is revolutionizing banking for many millions of people, but there is a risk: fraud and theft. Both are rising, and are costing customers and banks, both in cash and in damage to the reputation of electronic banking.

Criminal gangs and lone individuals alike are behind this crime. Most notorious are the "carding" and "skimming" gangs, who plant devices on ATMs to read plastic bank cards and steal victims' money. Mobile devices can also be "hacked" by sophisticated criminal gangs and the data stolen and used to plunder bank accounts. Lone thieves also take people hostage and force them to use their card to withdraw money. A crime victim is usually forced to give over his or her Personal Identification Number (PIN), which the thief then uses to withdraw cash from the ATM.

But just as thieves have become cleverer about the new opportunities created by digital financial transactions, enterprising start-ups are developing innovations to improve financial security.

One Kenyan start-up is hoping to be a pioneer in innovative financial safety software for mobile devices and ATMs.

Usalama Innovative Systems, LTD. (<http://usalama.biz/>), co-owned by graduate student and lead programmer Denis Karema (deniskarema.com), has already been singled out for a CIO magazine's CIO100 Award in Enterprise Innovation in 2011 (<http://www.cio.com/cio-awards/cio100>).

Karema has been working in information technology since 2008 and has a background in computer science. He has built his experience while working on various information technology projects in East Africa. The ambitious company says it wants to be "the leading provider of innovative solutions to financial entities in Africa by 2015."

Usalama has developed various systems pending patents and copyrights and has built up experience in deploying enterprise information technology.

Usalama is seeking additional funding from investors for multiple innovations to protect customer financial transactions. One of them is an ATM solution, which the company claims can reduce theft by over 90 per cent. Speaking with the Business Daily Africa website, Karema explained the anti-fraud application, dubbed Safety Pin.

"When someone approaches you or when you are involved in a carjacking, or one of those unfortunate incidences, you give them your card or PIN as they ask for it, but when they get to the machine it does not treat them the same way as it does you," Karema said.

The thief is presented with what looks like the victim's bank account but actually only has 10 per cent of their cash on display. The thief will then withdraw this cash and think they have cleaned out the victim's bank account.

It is a clever solution which doesn't entirely block the thief from receiving money from the ATM, but just gives them a small portion of the amount in the account. The idea is to fulfil the psychological need of the thief to get some cash in the robbery attempt, so they will then release the hostage and go away.

"We are working on reducing the amounts that can be lost by up to 90 per cent, so it means if I have 100,000 shillings in my account, only 10,000 shillings can be lost through fraud," Karema said.

The amount that is stolen can be covered by bank insurance policies so that the customer does not suffer a serious financial loss.

"(The) good thing about this application, first of all, is this hasn't been done before," Karema said. "People have come close to creating ATM anti-fraud measures, like asking you to put your PIN in reverse. But they don't seem to work. For each of them, you are ending up having your money stolen and then following up with the fraudster. So our application prevents the money from being stolen in the first place. So our preventative measure is better than a curative one when money is involved. And also the application is applicable globally.

"We intend to have this implemented in each and every commercial bank, not only in Africa, but the rest of the world.

"A bank can recoup investment in our application within the first year [by avoiding the loss of clients and funds from fraud]. Aside from that, the bank is also able to receive complete and detailed reports each and every time a fraud occurs and so it makes it easier for the bank to monitor trends and also to know which of their outlets are having more and more fraud-related cases."

Other innovations Usalama has been developing include Usalama Pin, which helps commercial banks monitor fraud in real time; Usalama Spy, which gives more detailed fraud reports and analyzes the information; Home Bank, a way to offer 24/7 banking to customers so they can deposit the money directly into savings accounts without delay; and Usalama Mobile, a mobile banking and money service solution.

Usalama believes the suite of solutions will help banks to retain current customers and make their financial transactions safer, attracting so-called "high net worth" clients. Usalama believes this will help banks in Africa grow their number of customers and cash reserves.

"We are always thinking about innovation because we feel that innovation is the key thing to developing sustainable enterprises," Karema believes.

LINKS:

- 1) Sinapis: Sinapis' mission is to empower aspiring entrepreneurs in the developing world with innovative, scalable business ideas by providing them with a rigorous business education, world-class consulting and mentoring services and access to seed capital. **Website:**
<http://www.sinapisgroup.org/entrepreneurs.php>
- 2) DarkMarket: How Hackers Became the New Mafia: We live our lives online – banking, shopping, working, dating – but have we become complacent? **Website:**
<http://www.randomhouse.co.uk/editions/darkmarket-how-hackers-became-the-new-mafia/9780099546559>
- 3) Usalama is seeking investors via the Venture Capital for Africa platform. **Website:**
<http://vc4africa.biz/members/254innovative/>
- 4) University Student Launches Startup Kenya, A Crowdfund Of All Startups In Kenya. **Website:**
<http://techmoran.com/2013/01/22/university-student-launches-startup-kenya-a-crowdfund-of-all-startups-in-kenya/>
- 5) Southern Innovator Magazine Issue 1: Mobile Phones and Information Technology. **Website:**
<http://www.scribd.com/doc/95410448/Southern-Innovator-Magazine-Issue-1-Mobile-Phones-and-Information-Technology>

4) New Apps Make Driving and Travelling in Egypt Easier, Safer

Mobile phones are ubiquitous across the global South. They have spawned whole new business opportunities and changed the way people solve problems and find solutions.

Sub-Saharan Africa is now home to approximately 650 million mobile phone subscribers, more than the United States and the European Union (World Bank). A recent World Bank report estimated mobile phones led directly to the creation of 5 million jobs in Africa in 2012, contributing to seven per cent of Africa's gross domestic product (GDP).

Mobile phones have also led to contests and challenges, set up to spark further innovation in this area and spur the development of so-called "apps", or applications, to run on these electronic devices.

These prizes encourage and reward useful innovation that directly tackles the problems and challenges of the South.

In Cairo, Egypt - a city notorious for some of the worst traffic congestion in the world - many have been trying to find smart solutions to the gridlock. The World Bank says in its Cairo Traffic Congestion Study that the annual cost of congestion in Cairo is estimated at up to US \$8 billion. This is four per cent of Egypt's gross domestic product (GDP) - four times the impact on national GDP experienced by other comparable large cities. The study found that at least 1,000 Cairo residents die each year in traffic-related accidents, more than half of them pedestrians. And rapid growth in the city is making it ever-harder to get on top of the problem.

Rising traffic congestion is a problem around the world. In the United States, traffic jumped 236 per cent as the population grew by 20 per cent between 1982 and 2001 (IBM).

The IBM Commuter Pain Study conducted in 2011, ranking the emotional and economic toll of commuting in 20 international cities, found that the commute in Beijing is four times more painful than the commute in Los Angeles or New York, and seven times more painful than the commute in Stockholm.

Commuter pain leads to productivity loss as people lose time stuck in traffic and fuel is wasted as engines idle in traffic jams - not to mention damage to the environment from the increased pollution.

According to the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, 95 per cent of congestion growth in the coming years will be in developing countries. Even in developed countries like the United States, in 2000, the average driver experienced 27 hours of delays (up seven hours from 1980) (MIT Press). This ballooned to 136 hours in Los Angeles.

Developing countries are seeing vehicle numbers rise by between 10 and 30 per cent per year (World Bank). In economic hotspots, growth is even faster.

The Cairo Transport App Challenge (<https://www.facebook.com/CairoTransportAppChallenge>) is a contest aimed at taming the city's traffic chaos. It is hosted by the Technology Innovation Entrepreneurship Center (TIEC) (<http://www.tiec.gov.eg/en-us/Pages/default.aspx>) and is organized by the World Bank in collaboration with others.

The contest's press release says it aims to connect transport and urban development experts with volunteer technology communities to build "applications to address pressing transport challenges in Cairo through leveraging the new information and communication technologies (ICT) - such as mobile phones, smartphones and GPS-enabled devices - as well as the talent of Egyptian software developers and innovators."

The first winner of the US \$3,000 in prize money is a mobile phone app that helps drivers get help on the road and with car maintenance.

Users can use the Belya app to find the best routes, and to get help if their vehicle breaks down. The app is essentially a portable virtual car mechanic. It uses Global Positioning System (GPS) technology to locate service centres, which are then contacted when somebody needs help. The app gives details to the repair shop on what is wrong, the date and time.

"It is also linked to the General Traffic Administration, to provide quick and regular updates of the traffic situation," according to a statement from Egypt's Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, which awarded the prize.

The contest's second prize was won by E-mokhalfa (<http://www.emokhalfa.com/emokhalfa/>), which helps communities create safer roads by using peer pressure to make drivers behave better. Third place went to the app called "Where is my bus?" (<https://twitter.com/AutobeesyFeen>). It helps passengers find bus stations, routes, journey times and all mass transport options on their mobile phones.

LINKS:

- 1) A guide to making mobile phone apps: Here are some resources to building your own phone app online or through a provider. **Website:** <http://www.brandignity.com/2011/03/building-mobile-iphone-phone-app-onlin/>

- 2) Android: Android is the world's most popular mobile platform. **Website:** android.com
- 3) Arab Republic of Egypt, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology. **Website:** <http://www.mcit.gov.eg/>
- 4) IBM Smart Traffic: IBM Intelligent Transportation, a compliment to the Intelligent Operations Center for Smarter Cities, enables advanced analysis of the many factors that make up traffic flow, and gives planners and responders a comprehensive look at the state of their city's roadways on ground level. **Website:** http://www.ibm.com/smarterplanet/eg/en/traffic_congestion/ideas/index.html
- 5) Southern Innovator Magazine Issue 1: Mobile Phones and Information Technology. **Website:** <http://www.scribd.com/doc/95410448/Southern-Innovator-Magazine-Issue-1-Mobile-Phones-and-Information-Technology>

5) Bangladesh Coffin-Maker Offers an Ethical Ending

Few people want to think about death, and many are ill-prepared when it happens to a loved one or friend. But it will happen to us all - and growing ethical and environmental concerns are reshaping the way many deal with the inevitable event. More and more people are seeking a lower-cost option for being disposed of that also does not harm the environment.

There are many ideas out there, but one that is getting attention is using sustainably sourced and fairly traded coffins as a way of reducing carbon emissions resulting from a person's death.

Bangladeshi pioneers Oasis Coffins (oasiscoffins.com) are crafting ecologically sound, Fair Trade coffins and generating jobs and income for an impoverished region of the country. The coffins are made from locally grown bamboo, seagrass and willow and are a clever piece of design.

Bamboo is as strong as steel and yet flexible, and the coffins made from it look like typical burial boxes - but can be folded back into their footprint to be stored flat. This is a great space-saving innovation and makes it easier to store the coffins and also to ship them to overseas markets. This clever design is reducing the amount of energy used.

Oasis has a manufacturing workshop employing 70 people in the Nilphamari district of Bangladesh (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nilphamari_District), about 400 kilometres north from the capital, Dhaka. The region is poor, but large quantities of bamboo grow in the area.

It is a region where employment is seasonal and erratic, making family life chaotic as parents constantly search for stable work.

Oasis Coffins is located in the Uttara Export Processing Zone (<http://www.epzbangladesh.org.bd/bepza.php?id=EPZ-U>), run under the authority of the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA), a government agency that aims to "promote, attract and facilitate foreign investment in the Export Processing Zones." Its sales office is based in Birmingham in the United Kingdom.

The company began in 2006 with the idea of creating high-quality products using local materials while creating good quality jobs to achieve a double impact: changed lives and a protected environment. The hope is to create a business model that can be replicated elsewhere.

The company is structured to include both its product development and manufacturing in rural Bangladesh. It took its time conducting market research and product development to make sure it had a product people were willing to buy.

"We make beautiful, high quality products in an environment that gives people reliable employment and good working conditions," said managing director David How on the company's website. "Our products are in demand from people who are becoming increasingly conscious of their impact on the environment and others.

"It is encouraging to know that in bereavement, we can give life to people and a community in Bangladesh. We want people to know where their products are coming from, and to know that what they buy can benefit people elsewhere."

According to its website, Oasis Coffins abides by the standards prescribed by the World Fair Trade Organization (wfto.com) and the European Fair Trade Association (<http://www.european-fair-trade-association.org/>) and is also a member of ECOTA (ecotafft.org). The ECOTA Fair Trade Forum started in 1990 and is a networking and coordinating body for small and medium sized Fair Trade Enterprises of Bangladesh.

Employees are divided equally between women and men, and many have never been to school. They are paid 30 per cent more than the recommended rate for garment workers in Bangladesh.

Oasis Coffins knows by name the farmers who provide the bamboo and all of it is harvested within 20 kilometres of the manufacturing workshop. Oasis Coffins also takes pride in the construction of the workshop, which

features plenty of natural light, good ventilation and easy access in and out. A comfortable workshop is important for the health and happiness of manufacturing workers. Employees receive a pension scheme, paid holidays, sick leave and a lump-sum payment if they leave. There is also a doctor available during working hours for free medical advice.

To help upgrade the skills of the workers, there are lunchtime literacy classes, and employees are also taught how to manufacture products to a high global standard.

The Oasis coffins are benefiting from the growing marketplace for green funerals in Europe and North America.

In Britain, ecological funerals are on the rise as people seek an affordable and environmentally sound way to be dispatched.

The UK's Co-operative Funeral Care, part of the Co-operative Group, is selling the Bangladeshi coffins at more than 900 of its funeral homes in the United Kingdom as part of its ethical strategy.

Providing funeral services can be an effective income generator. In Ghana, craftsmen have developed a global reputation for their quirky coffin designs celebrating the lives of the deceased. Ghana is also pioneering the selling of funeral insurance through mobile phones. Bereavement services are among the many basic needs of all communities, no matter where they are located. Just as people will always be born and get sick, they will also eventually die. Providing services that offer dignity to the families and the deceased can be a boost to local economies.

LINKS:

- 1) *Ghana coffin pioneer: Paa Joe's sculpted coffins blur the line between art and craft. Each work is carefully constructed to reflect the ambition or the trade of the person for whom it was made.*
Website: <http://www.jackbellgallery.com/artists/35-Paa-Joe/overview/>
- 2) *African funeral insurance providers: "Stanbic Bank launches FuneralPlan insurance product".*
Website: <http://www.modernghana.com/news/427917/1/stanbic-bank-launches-funeralplan-insurance-produc.html>
- 3) *Southern Innovator Magazine Issue 2: Youth and Entrepreneurship.* **Website:**
<http://www.scribd.com/doc/106055335/Southern-Innovator-Magazine-Issue-2-Youth-and-Entrepreneurship>

WINDOW ON THE WORLD

Check out our website archive: southerninnovator.org

Southern Innovator (ISSN 2222-9280) magazine's third issue is now online and print copies are available for distribution. The third issue's theme is agribusiness and food security. View the issue online here: <http://www.scribd.com/doc/106055665/Southern-Innovator-Magazine-Issue-3-Agribusiness-and-Food-Security>. Contact us about opportunities to sponsor this issue or any future issues and we can send you more information on how it works.

Issue 4, on cities and urbanization, is complete and will be published soon. Please contact the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation if you would like a copy (copies) of Southern Innovator (<http://ssc.undp.org/content/ssc.html>).

The covers for issues 2, 3 and 4 are below:



Issue 2 on Youth and Entrepreneurship; Issue 3 on agribusiness and food security, is available. Issues 4 and 5 are also in the works for 2013.

Follow us on Twitter @SouthSouth1

Issue 1 of Southern Innovator was called "...a terrific tour de force of what is interesting, cutting edge and relevant in the global mobile/ICT space..."

Also check out our South South Expo: 2012's Expo was held in Vienna, Austria: southsouthexpo.org

BOOKS

NEW: Human Development Report 2013: *The Rise of the South*. The 2013 Human Development Report examines the profound shift in global dynamics driven by the fast-rising new powers of the developing world and its long-term implications for human development. **Website:** <http://hdr.undp.org/en/mediacentre/humandevreportpresskits/2013report/>

Human Development Reports, (1990-2013). **Website:** <http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2011/>

The New Harvest: Agricultural Innovation in Africa by Calestous Juma, Publisher: Oxford University Press. **Website:** http://belfercenter.ksg.harvard.edu/publication/20504/new_harvest.html

Innovative Africa: The New Face of Africa: Essays on the Rise of Africa's Innovation Age by Will Mutua and Mbwana Ally, Publisher: Afrinnovator. **Website:** <http://book.afrinnovator.com/>

Greedy Man in Hungry World by Jay Rayner, Publisher: Collins. **Website:** <http://www.amazon.co.uk/A-Greedy-Man-Hungry-World/dp/0007237596>

Meme Wars: The Creative Destruction of Neoclassical Economics by Kalle Lasn, Publisher: Seven Stories Press. **Website:** amazon.com

The Coming Prosperity by Philip Auerwald, Publisher: Oxford University Press. **Website:** <http://auerswald.org/>

Urgent Architecture: 40 Sustainable Solutions for a Changing World by Bridgette Meinhold, Publisher: W. W. Norton & Co. **Website:** amazon.com

Need, Speed and Greed: How the New Rules of Innovation Can Transform Businesses, Propel Nations to Greatness, and Tame the World's Most Wicked Problems by Vijay Vaitheeswaran, Publisher: HarperBusiness. **Website:** amazon.com

When the Money Runs Out: The End of Western Affluence by Stephen D. King, Publisher: Yale Books. **Website:** amazon.com

Living in the Endless City edited by Ricky Burdett and Deyan Sudjic, Publisher: Phaidon. The city is the subject of the 21st century. All over the world, populations are shifting towards urban centres. *Living in the Endless City* depicts an authoritative survey of cities of today and the prospects for our urban future of tomorrow. 36 contributors from across Europe, South America, China, Africa and the U.S. set the agenda for the city - detailing its successes as well as its failures. **Website:** <http://www.urban-age.net/publications/living-in-the-endless-city/>

Hello World: Where Design Meets Life by Alice Rawsthorn, Publisher: Hamish Hamilton. Design is one of the most powerful influences on our lives. *Hello World* explores design, its impact now and in the future. **Website:** <http://www.alicerawsthorn.com/books.php>

World 3.0: Global Prosperity and How to Achieve It by Pankaj Ghemawa, Publisher: Harvard Business School Press. **Website:** amazon.com

The End of Cheap China: Economic and Cultural Trends that will Disrupt the World by Shaun Rein, Publisher: John Wiley and Sons. **Website:** amazon.com

Chinnovation: How Chinese Innovators are Changing the World by Yinglan Tan, Publisher: John Wiley & Sons. **Website:** amazon.com

China's Uncertain Future by Jean-Luc Domenach, Publisher: Columbia University Press. **Website:** <http://cup.columbia.edu/book/978-0-231-15224-2/chinas-uncertain-future>

China's Silent Army: The Pioneers, Traders, Fixers and Workers Who Are Remaking the World in Beijing's Image by Juan Pablo Cardenal and Heriberto Araujo, Publisher: Allen Lane. **Website:** amazon.com

Lee Kuan Yew: The Grand Master's Insights on China, the United States, and the World, by Graham Allison, Robert D. Blackwill and Ali Wyne, Publisher: The MIT Press. **Website:** <http://mitpress.mit.edu/books/lee-kuan-yew>

Creative Ecologies: Where Thinking is a Proper Job by John Howkins, Publisher: UQP. **Website:** www.creativeeconomy.com/think.htm

Breakout Nations by Ruchir Sharma, Publisher: Penguin. Breakout Nations offers journeys through more than two dozen of the most interesting economies in the emerging world. **Website:** <http://breakoutnations.com/>

Light Manufacturing in Africa by Hinh T. Dinh et al, Publisher: World Bank. This book examines how light manufacturing can offer a viable solution for sub-Saharan Africa's need for structural transformation and productive job creation, given its potential competitiveness based on low wage costs and an abundance of natural resources that supply raw materials needed for industries. **Website:** <http://issuu.com/world.bank.publications/docs/9780821389614>

Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity and Poverty by Daron Acemoglu and James A. Robinson, Publisher: Profile Books. **Website:** amazon.com

China: And the End of Poverty in Africa – Towards Mutual Benefit? by Penny Davis, Publisher: Diakonia and the European Network on Debt and Development. **Website:** www.eurodad.org/uploadedFiles/Whats_New/Reports/Kinarapport_A4.pdf

Globalization and Competition: Why Some Emergent Countries Succeed while Others Fall Behind by Luiz Carlos Bresser Pereira, Publisher: Cambridge University Press. **Website:** www.networkideas.org/book/jan2010/bk12_GACL.htm

State of the Field in Youth Enterprise, Employment, and Livelihoods Development Publisher: Making Cents International. This practical resource features learning from over 80 leading organizations that are working around the world to increase and improve economic opportunities for young people. Topics include youth enterprise development; workforce development; youth-inclusive financial services; working with adolescent girls and young women; and monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment. **Website:** www.YouthEconomicOpportunities.org/media.asp

Cotton: The Fabric That Made the Modern World by Giorgio Riello, Publisher: Cambridge University Press. **Website:** http://www.cambridge.org/gb/knowledge/isbn/item7074813/?site_locale=en_GB

Vitamin Green: The Definitive Guide to the World of Contemporary Sustainable Design: Features 100 Innovative Projects from Around the World by editors of Phaidon Press, Publisher: Phaidon Press. **Website:** <http://uk.phaidon.com/store/architecture/vitamin-green-9780714862293/>

Makers: The New Industrial Revolution by Chris Anderson, Publisher: Crown Business. **Website:** amazon.com

Papers and Reports

Clean Air Asia Study 2012. **Website:** <http://cleanairinitiative.org/portal/node/11338>

African Economic Outlook 2012: Promoting Youth Employment Publisher: Various. With almost 200 million people aged between 15 and 24, Africa has the youngest population in the world. This number will double by 2045. Many jobs have been created over the last decade, but the pace needs to accelerate significantly to match the demand of Africa's next generations. **Website:** <http://www.africaneconomicoutlook.org/en/>

State of China's Cities: 2010/2011: Better City, Better Life Publisher: UNHABITAT. **Website:** www.scribd.com/doc/39882697/State-of-China-s-Cities-Report-2010-2011

Still our Common Interest: Commission for Africa Report 2010 Publisher: Commission for Africa **Website:** www.commissionforafrica.info/2010-report

World Economic Outlook Update: Restoring Confidence without Harming Recovery Publisher: IMF. **Website:** www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2010/update/02/index.htm

Empowering People and Transforming Society. The World Economic Forum's Technology Pioneers 2011 Publisher: World Economic Forum. **Website:** www.scribd.com/doc/35953976/Technology-Pioneers-2011

The Emerging Middle Class in Developing Countries Publisher: OECD. **Website:** www.oecdilibrary.org/oecd/content/workingpaper/5kmmp8lncrns-en (PDF - 2.09 mb)

The Implications of China's Ascendancy for Africa by Hany Besada, Publisher: The Centre for International Governance Innovation. This paper examines the extent to which China's engagement with Africa has produced mutual benefits for both and whether Africa is reaping the necessary benefits required for poverty alleviation and economic development. **Website:** http://www.cigionline.com/sites/default/files/Paper_40-web.pdf

Global Economic Decoupling Alive and Well Emerging economies decouple from the US, come closer to Europe. **Website:** <http://www.marketoracle.co.uk/Article23670.html>

The Global Financial Crisis and Africa's "Immiserizing Wealth", Research Brief, United Nations University, Number 1 2010. **Website:** www.unu.edu/publications/briefs/policy-briefs/2010/UNU_ResearchBrief_10-01.pdf

Africa begins to make poverty history: US economists challenge conventional view that the continent is a basket case. **Website:** www.guardian.co.uk/business/2010/mar/03/africa-makes-poverty-history

New Magazine

African Innovator Magazine has launched: AIM showcases innovative technology solutions to business challenges on the continent. **Website:** <http://www.africaninnovatormagazine.com/>

On the Web

Blogs and Websites

Raspberry Pi: The Raspberry Pi is a credit-card sized computer that plugs into your TV and a keyboard. It's a capable little PC which can be used for many of the things that your desktop PC does, like spreadsheets, word-processing and games. It also plays high-definition video. Raspberry Pi want to see it being used by kids all over the world to learn programming. **Website:** raspberrypi.org

African Robotics Network: The African Robotics Network (AFRON) is a community of institutions, organizations and individuals engaged in robotics in Africa. AFRON seeks to promote communication and collaborations that will enhance robotics-related education, research and industry on the continent. To achieve this, AFRON organizes projects, meetings and events in Africa at robotics and automation conferences abroad. **Website:** <http://robotics-africa.org/>

Polis: A collaborative blog about cities around the globe. **Website:** <http://www.thepolisblog.org/2012/03/coca-cola-in-africa.html>

mDirectory: The mDirectory is the most comprehensive database of information on mobile tech for social change on the Web: case studies, mobile tools, research, and how-to guides. **Website:** <http://mobileactive.org/directory>

Global Development: Launched in September 2010, this website from the Guardian newspaper tracks progress on the MDGs, encourages debate on its blogs, offers a rich store of datasets from around the world, and features monthly podcasts and resources for schools **Website:** www.guardian.co.uk/global-development

Latameconomy Website Launches

Latameconomy.org is the latest evolution of the annual Latin American Economic Outlook report, essentially bringing its trusted, high quality content into the digital age. Its wide country coverage and methods of analysis are essential for anyone seeking to understand the economic, social and political developments of Latin American countries. **Website:** www.latameconomy.org/en/

International Development Economics Associates (IDEAs)

International Development Economics Associates (IDEAs) is a pluralist network of progressive economists across the world, engaged in research, teaching and dissemination of critical analyses of economic policy and development. **Website:** www.networkideas.org/

OECD: Tackling the economic crisis website

The global economic crisis is entering a new phase amid signs of a return to positive growth in many countries. But unemployment is likely to remain high and much still needs to be done to underpin a durable recovery. This website will track the recovery.

Website: http://www.oecd.org/document/24/0,3343,en_2649_201185_41707672_1_1_1_1,00.html

The Global Urbanist: News and analysis of cities around the world: planning, governance, economy, communities, environment, international. **Website:** www.globalurbanist.com

ICT Update: A bimonthly printed bulletin, a web magazine, and an accompanying email newsletter that explores innovative uses of information technology in agriculture and rural development in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. **Website:** <http://ictupdate.cta.int/en/Regulars/Perspectives/%28issue%29%56>

Youth-Inclusive Financial Services (YFS-Link) Program: The first space for financial services providers (FSPs) and youth-service organizations (YSOs) to gather, learn and share about youth-inclusive financial services.

Website: yfslink.org

Triple Crisis Blog: Global Perspectives on Finance, Development and Environment

Website: <http://triplecrisis.com/>

Full Disclosure: The Aid Transparency Blog: A Devex blog, written by members of the international community.

Website: www.devex.com/en/blogs/full-disclosure

Africa Portal: An online knowledge resource offering researchers and opinion leaders a forum to share their insights on Africa and publish their work on pressing areas of concern to policymakers and the public. It aims to fill the gap in accessibility to research and information on policy issues on the continent.

Website: africaportal.org

African Economic Outlook: A unique online tool that puts rigorous economic data, information and research on Africa at your fingertips. A few clicks gives access to comprehensive analyses of African economies, placed in their social and political contexts. This is the only place where African countries are examined through a common analytical framework, allowing you to compare economic prospects at the regional, sub-regional and country levels. **Website:** africaneconomicoutlook.org/en

Africa Renewal: The *Africa Renewal* information programme, produced by the Africa Section of the United Nations Department of Public Information, provides up-to-date information and analysis of the major economic and development challenges facing Africa today.

Website: www.un.org/ecosocdev/geninfo/afrec/

Timbuktu Chronicles: *A blog by Emeka Okafor: "a view of Africa and Africans with a focus on entrepreneurship, innovation, technology, practical remedies and other self-sustaining activities."*

Website: <http://timbuktuchronicles.blogspot.com/>

AfriGadget: AfriGadget is a must-read for African invention junkies. They are always on the look out for ingenious innovation that is new or a repurposing of existing technology in a new way, interesting in the sense that the story captures the imagination of others, inspiring others to see solutions in uncommon ways, practical ideas that solve problems in a demonstrable way, and entrepreneurs who are inventing new products or solutions. **Website:** www.afrigadget.com

Interesting Blogger

Emeka Okafor, Timbuktu Chronicles: Emeka Okafor is an entrepreneur and venture catalyst who lives in New York City. He is the curator of Maker Faire Africa. He was the director for TED Global 2007 that took place in Arusha, Tanzania. In addition he is a member of the TED fellowship team. His interests include sustainable technologies in the developing world and paradigm-breaking technologies in general. His blog, Timbuktu Chronicles, seeks to spur dialogue in areas of entrepreneurship, technology and the scientific method as it impacts Africa. **Website:** <http://timbuktuchronicles.blogspot.co.uk/>

Notable Websites

African Brains: The Home of Intelligent Networking: African Brains - for forward thinking, intelligent Africans to network and propose new ideas and technologies to the world. **Website:** www.africanbrains.net

Social Media

Africa Entrepreneurship Platform: This ground breaking initiative is created as a forum to showcase innovative ideas and businesses from Africa that have the ability to scale internationally, driving job creation and sustainable economic development between Africa and the Americas. **Website:** www.sacca.biz

AfriGadget on Facebook: 'Solving everyday problems with African ingenuity': **Website:** www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2402629579

Start-up Funding

Hubs!

They are sprouting up all over the place and now there is a map showing where they are in Africa. **Website:** <https://africahubs.crowdmap.com/#>

And there are 18 in Latin America too. **Website:** <http://thenextweb.com/la/2012/08/11/18-latin-american-tech-hubs-know/>

The SEED Initiative

Hosted by the UN Environment Programme's World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), the SEED Initiative is a global partnership for action on the Green Economy. The annual SEED Awards help to develop the most promising social and environmental start-ups in emerging economies and developing countries. **Website:** <http://unep.org/newscentre/Default.aspx?DocumentID=2647&ArticleID=8798&l=en>

The Pioneers of Prosperity Grant and Award

This competition is a partnership between the OTF Group and the John F. Templeton Foundation of the United States, and promotes companies in East Africa by identifying local role models that act as examples of sustainable businesses in their country/region. It is open to businesses from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda.

Five pioneers will receive US \$50,000 to re-invest in their business. It is open to for-profit businesses that provide high wages to their workers and that operate in sustainable ways. **Website:**

<http://pioneersofprosperity.org/index.php>

Oxford Said Business School Youth Business Development Competition

Open to youth between 16 and 21 across the world, the competition is run by students at Oxford University to promote social enterprise. A prize fund of £2,000 in seed capital is up for grabs. It calls itself the 'world's first global youth development competition. **Website:** www.sbs.ox.ac.uk/oba/se/ybd

Challenge

InnoCentive (www.innocentive.com/) is a challenge to the world's inventors to find solutions to real scientific and technological problems affecting the poor and vulnerable. It is an open marketplace where anybody with a problem can post it, and rewards for effective solutions stretch up to US \$100,000. They use rigorous intellectual property protection so ideas are not stolen without credit being given to the inventor. **Website:**

www.rockfound.org/about_us/news/2007/0720first_seeker.shtml

Rwanda Innovation Endowment Fund (RIEF): Rwanda Research Innovation Endowment Fund (RIEF) was established and is managed by the Government of Rwanda, through the Ministry of Education (MINEDUC) in partnership with UNECA (SRO-EA & ISTD) under One UN Rwanda. The objective of this Fund is to stimulate economic transformation through R&D in innovative market-oriented products and processes in priority areas of the economy, thereby increasing prosperity and the competitiveness of the Rwandan economy. The orientation can be either for economic growth, social development or combination of the two. **Website:**

<http://www.mineduc.gov.rw/spip.php?article21>

The Innovation Prize for Africa (IPA): The **United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)** and the **African Innovation Foundation (AIF)** are delighted to announce the call for applications for the 2013 **Innovation Prize for Africa (IPA)**. Too often, innovators and entrepreneurs are not highly profiled on the African development agenda. It is IPA's mission to elevate attention around innovative work and help support the vision of entrepreneurs. The prize honours and encourages innovative achievements that contribute towards the development of new products, increased efficiency or cost savings in Africa. The prize also promotes the efforts of young African men and women pursuing science, technology and engineering careers as well as business opportunities that aim to contribute to sustainable development in Africa. **Website:**

<http://innovationprizeforafrica.org/>

Video

Forum for the Future: Compelling animated videos exploring the hard choices of an urbanizing world and the need to promote sustainable development and environmental harmony. **Website:**

<http://www.youtube.com/user/forumforthefuture96>

EVENTS

Have an event you would like the South-South community to know about? Then send details to developmentchallenges@googlemail.com.

2013

March

Workshop to Build Community Radio in Nigeria

Igbimina, Nigeria (18-21 March 2013)

This event is the second in the series of community-based workshops aimed at sensitizing the communities on the importance of setting up community radio stations. This IPDC-funded project contributes to expanding the plurality and diversity of the media in Nigeria, and enhances the capacities of local communities in the use of media for community development and democratic discourse. This project is designed to make a strategic contribution to the development of community radio in Nigeria through training of grassroots communities and regional awareness raising events. The project builds on over five years of community radio advocacy in Nigeria and meets needs clearly expressed by civil society and community-based organizations and by grassroots communities to increase awareness of community radio and to build capacity for community radio development.

Website: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/intergovernmental-programmes/ipdc/homepage/>

Nigeria Summit 2013

Lagos, Nigeria (19-20 March 2013)

Nigeria has a young and growing population, a wide range of natural resources and a government full of internationally renowned reformers – yet life for the average Nigerian is not improving. There's no shortage of visions that see Nigeria transformed into a dynamic, competitive economy where entrepreneurialism and innovation thrives. But the real need is for action – at all levels. Bringing together 180+ international business leaders, investors, policymakers and influential commentators, our flagship Nigeria Summit will focus on what is being done to execute the vision.

Website: <http://cemea.economistconferences.com/event/nigeria-summit>

April

OECD Global Forum on Development: Innovative Approaches to Poverty Reduction, Social Cohesion and Progress

Paris, France (4-5 April 2013)

This edition of the forum, Innovative Approaches to Poverty Reduction, Social Cohesion and Progress in the post-2015 world, is designed to promote better understanding of the shifting dynamics of poverty and what they mean for the design and implementation of poverty reduction policies by governments, international organisations and others in the post-2015 world. It will offer high-level policy makers, academia, civil society and the private sector a space for debate and exchange on the challenges, opportunities and lessons learned in poverty reduction, focusing in particular on efforts to foster social cohesion, improve well-being and ensure progress at the national and global levels. **Website:** <http://www.oecd.org/site/oecdgfd/agenda.htm>

ILO Academy on Social and Solidarity Economy

Agadir, Morocco (8-12 April 2013)

This year the academy will have a special focus on Youth and Job Creation for Young People. The main objectives will be: to generate a better understanding of the concept of a Social and Solidarity Economy and its possible application to job creation for young people; to strengthen the impact of a Social and Solidarity Economy approach through the creation of a community of practice in this area; strengthen the knowledge on SSE strategies, practices and available tools, with a particular emphasis on South-South exchanges. **Website:**

<http://socialeconomy.ilo.org/en>

Imperfect Design at Milan Design Week 2013

Milan, Italy (9-14 April 2013)

During the Milan Design Week, between April 9 and 14, Imperfect Design will show its collection of interior accessories designed by Arian Brekveld and Van Eijk & Van der Lubbe at Ventura Lambrate (Via Privata Oslavia 8, Milan). After a successful introduction of Imperfect Design in the Netherlands in 2012, the young brand is ready to presents its collections of the renowned designers Arian Brekveld and Van Eijk & Van der Lubbe to the large international public in Milan. **Website:** www.imperfectdesign.nl

Source Africa – The African Textile, Apparel and Footwear Trade Event
Cape Town, South Africa (9-12 April 2013)

Source Africa shows off the quality, creativity, reliability, and sophistication of apparel manufacturing in Africa targeting a global audience of buyers, business leaders and service providers. SOURCE Africa will bring together business leaders and decision makers from across Africa, providing opportunities for international buyers to network with African manufacturers. By bringing Africa to the world of Sourcing, SOURCE Africa provides unparalleled resources and opportunities to buyers ... all under one roof. **Website:** <http://www.sourceafrica.co.za/>

Bellweather Breakfast: The Outlook for Growth, 2013 and Beyond
Baku, Azerbaijan (17 April 2013)

The financial crisis is now five years old, but the world's economic woes are far from over. Austerity measures and high unemployment in the euro zone are sapping business and consumer confidence; while the threat of a disorderly euro breakup or sovereign default has receded, the continent remains mired in recession, the weakest link in the global economy. Elsewhere, fiscal policy issues in the US are raising substantial risks, Russian economic growth is declining despite high oil prices, and the world waits to see whether a new leadership in China can manage the transition to a more consumer-led economy. These trends and factors create a new risk environment for business leaders and investors, forcing them to prepare for a complex range of scenarios. The Economist Events Bellwether Breakfast is an invitation-only meeting for thirty-five business leaders and investors which explores economic risks and scenarios in conversation with invited experts. Join us as we discuss the outlook for growth, linking global risks and developments to strategic decisions facing business leaders in Azerbaijan and the Caspian region **Website:** <http://cemea.economistconferences.com/event/bellwether-breakfast-baku-0>

May

Arab Education Summit
Amman, Jordan (6-8 May 2013)

The Arab Education Summit is a landmark event bringing together captains of industry and government leaders to ensure the world-class delivery of education, science and technology across the Middle East and North Africa. **Website:** <http://arabbrains.com/aes/register/>

Potential and Limits of Social and Solidarity Economy
Geneva, Switzerland (6-8 May 2013)

UNRISD is holding an international conference from 6 to 8 May in Geneva. The conference, co-organized with ILO and UN-NGLS, aims to raise the visibility of debates about Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) within the United Nations system and beyond, and contribute to thinking in international policy circles about a post-2015 development agenda. **Website:** www.unrisd.org

World Summit on the Information Society Forum 2013
Geneva, Switzerland (13-17 May 2013)

The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum 2013 will be jointly organized by UNESCO, ITU, UNCTAD and UNDP in Geneva, Switzerland, from 13 to 17 May 2013. The Forum provides structured opportunities to network, learn and participate in multi-stakeholder discussions and consultations on WSIS implementation **Website:** <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/flagship-project-activities/unesco-and-wsis/homepage/>

The Fourth Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction
Geneva, Switzerland (19-23 May 2013)

The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction is a biennial forum for information exchange, discussion of latest development and knowledge and partnership building across sectors, with the goal to improve implementation of disaster risk reduction through better communication and coordination amongst stakeholders. It is for government representatives, NGOs, scientists, practitioners, and UN organizations to share experiences and formulate strategic guidance and advice for the implementation of the HFA. **Website:** <http://www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform/2013/>

June

China's New Future: Fortune Global Forum
Chengdu, China (6-8 June 2013)

Since 1995, the Global Forum has convened the heads of global business—the chairmen, presidents, and CEOs of the world's largest companies—on the dynamic frontiers of international commerce. In 2013 the Global Forum will return to China for the 4th time, convening in Chengdu, an energetic growing city in southwestern China that is both a symbol and the reality of the 21st century global economy. China is at a key inflection point, changing dynamically, and the Fortune Global Forum is the highest-level place for multinational CEOs—and the heads of China's most important companies—to gain visibility into the emerging new trends, and meet the people that are shaping "China's New Future." It represents an unparalleled opportunity to build the key relationships and

obtain insights that are vital to positioning multinational companies for long-term success, in China and on a global basis. Participation in the Fortune Global Forum is by invitation only, and is attended by the CEOs of the Fortune Global 500 companies, along with the most important leaders from China and other nations.

Website: <http://www.fortuneconferences.com/global-forum-2013/>

Digital Horizons: People, Prosperity, Power

Stockholm, Sweden (12-13 June 2013)

Technology is going to change everything, again. Digitalisation has already transformed our lives but a new wave of innovation is coming that will reshape the way we live, work and consume, redefining social systems, industrial competitiveness and democracy – pushing the boundaries of what we thought possible. At Digital Horizons, we will explore the opportunities, challenges and threats in our digital future, focusing on current trends and their impact in 5, 15 and 30 years. How will technology change the way that companies compete and consumers behave? What needs to happen for Northern Europe, a hub of innovation in the past, to ensure that digitalisation supports growth, transparency and competition? Our summit will gather leading innovators, researchers, entrepreneurs, futurists and policymakers to discuss the digital future. **Website:**

<http://cemea.economistconferences.com/event/digital-horizons-0>

July

Have an event you would like the South-South community to know about? Then send details to developmentchallenges@googlemail.com.

August

Have an event you would like the South-South community to know about? Then send details to developmentchallenges@googlemail.com.

September

Global Youth Economic Opportunities Conference 2013

Washington, D.C., USA (10-12 September 2013)

Purpose: Increase economic opportunities for 1.8 billion youth. The conference goal is to strengthen the impact, scale, and sustainability of youth economic opportunity programming. Be part of this premier learning event. Join leading practitioners, funders, private sector companies, researchers, educators, advocates, youth leaders and government representatives working to increase economic opportunities for young people, together with those working in the related areas of education, financial services, and health. The 2013 event will contain two Spotlights: "Opportunities for Rural Youth" focuses on how to support youth in rural areas. "Power of Technology" showcases how to utilize technology in your programming.

Website: <http://www.youtheconomicopportunities.org/conference/register>

Medicine 2.0'13 6th World Congress on Social Media, Mobile Apps, and Internet/Web 2.0 in Health and Medicine

London, UK (23-24 September 2013)

This year hosted in London, will once again be very international and contain a unique mix of traditional academic/research, practice and business presentations, keynote presentations, and panel discussions to discuss emerging technologies in health and medicine, with an emphasis on Internet-based, social media, and mobile technologies. **Website:** <http://bit.ly/X7ZXxi>

October

7th ECOWAS Trade Fair

Accra, Ghana (24 October to 4 November 2013)

The regional fair, which is now a biennial event, was instituted to boost intra-community trade which presently hovers between 11 and 15 percent, and thereby contributing to the improved implementation of the ECOWAS Trade Liberalisation Scheme (ETLS). It will also contribute to empowering local producers and stimulating the regional economy. **Website:** <http://www.ecowas.int/>

November

Have an event you would like the South-South community to know about? Then send details to developmentchallenges@googlemail.com.

December

Have an event you would like the South-South community to know about? Then send details to developmentchallenges@googlemail.com.

AWARDS AND FUNDING

The EU Contest for Young Scientists

The European Union (EU) Contest for Young Scientists, an initiative of the European Commission, was set up to promote the ideals of co-operation and interchange between young scientists.

Website: http://ec.europa.eu/research/youngscientists/index_en.cfm?pg=history

2013 Innovation Prize for Africa

The second round of the Innovation Prize for Africa (IPA), which aims to reward innovation across Africa in key sectors of interest, has been launched. The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) expect the prize to promote among young African men and women in the pursuit of science, technology and engineering careers and business applications. The aims are to:

- Mobilize leaders from all sectors to fuel African innovation;
- Promote innovation across Africa in key sectors of interest through the competition;
- Promote science, technology and engineering as rewarding, exciting and noble career options among the youth in Africa by profiling success applicants; and
- Encourage entrepreneurs, innovators, funding bodies and business development service providers to exchange ideas and explore innovative business opportunities.

Website: innovationprizeforafrica.org

World Summit Youth Award

The international contest for young people using the Internet and mobiles to take action on the UN Millennium Development Goals.

Website: www.youthaward.org

Grand Challenges Canada: Request for Proposals

Grand Challenges Canada is pleased to announce a new initiative in its Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health grand challenge. It's called Saving Brains. Its goal is to unlock potential in children and dramatically transform lives in the developing world. The money to fund this program comes from the Development Innovation Fund. In Budget 2008, the Government of Canada committed \$225 million CAD over five years to the Development Innovation Fund, to support the best minds in the world in a collaborative search for solutions to global health challenges. For the Request for Proposals:

Website: http://www.grandchallenges.ca/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/Request_for_Proposals-Saving_Brains_EN.pdf

Zayed Future Energy Prize

The world is in desperate need of innovative solutions to create a new, sustainable energy future. No one knows who or where the next great energy solution will come from. Solutions and technologies that could change the world are being developed globally, and the \$2.2 million Zayed Future Energy Prize, managed by Masdar in Abu Dhabi, recognizes and rewards innovation, leadership, and long-term vision in renewable energy and sustainability.

Website: www.zayedfutureenergyprize.com/

Philips Liveable Cities Award

Philips is looking for individuals and community or non-government organizations and businesses with ideas for "simple solutions" that will improve people's health and well-being in a city to enter the Philips Liveable Cities Award. To help translate these ideas into reality, three Award grants totalling €125,000 are on the line. One overall winning idea from any of the three categories outlined below will receive a grant of €75,000, while the two additional ideas will receive grants of €25,000.

Website: <http://www.because.philips.com/livable-cities-award/about-the-award>

Piramal Foundation in India

Has established a US \$25,000 prize for ideas that help advance full access to effective public health care in India. The Piramal Prize is a \$25,000 Social Entrepreneurship Competition focused on democratizing health care in India that seeks to encourage and support bold entrepreneurial ideas which can profoundly impact access to higher standards of health for India's rural and marginalized urban communities. The award recognizes high-impact, scalable business models and innovative solutions that directly or indirectly address India's health-care crisis.

Website: www.piramalprize.org

Special Award for South-South Transfer

The aim of the award is to identify, provide visibility, and honour those who have successfully shared their projects and approaches internationally, thereby increasing the impact of the initiative. The winning practice receives US \$15,000 to further transfer the awarded practice to other communities in developing countries.

Website: www.southsouthexpo.org

South-South Experience Exchange Facility

Supported by Mexico, China, India, Denmark, Spain, The Netherlands, and the U.K. and now Colombia, the South-South Experience Exchange Facility is a multi-donor trust fund that promotes the idea that developing countries can learn from the successes of other developing countries in overcoming similar challenges. In the past 12 months, the trust has given out 35 grants to countries for learning activities ranging from working with at risk youth in the Caribbean to outsourcing IT services in Africa.

Website: www.southsouthcases.info

African Writers Fund

Together with the Ford Foundation, the Fund supports the work of independent creative writers living on the continent. The Fund recognizes the vital role that poets and novelists play in Africa by anticipating and reflecting the cultural, economic and political forces that continuously shape and reshape societies.

Website: http://www.trustafrica.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=91&Itemid=90&lang=fr

Joint NAM S&T Centre - ICCS Fellowship Programme

Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre) and International Center for Chemical Sciences (ICCS), (H.E.J. Research Institute of Chemistry and Dr. Panjwani Centre for Molecular Medicine and Drug Research), University of Karachi, Karachi, Pakistan

[Click here for more information](#)

or contact: namstct@vsnl.com, namstct@bol.net.in, apknam@gmail.com

PhD Plant Breeding Scholarships at the University of Ghana

The University of Ghana (www.ug.edu.gh) has been awarded a project support grant by the Alliance for a Green Revolution (www.agra-alliance.org) in Africa (a joint venture between the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation, for the establishment of a West African Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI). This is available to scientists working at NARIs, universities and international centres in West Africa. Women scientists are especially encouraged to apply for a fellowship under this programme.

Website: www.acci.org.za/Default.asp?nav=Home&idno=10

Genesis: India's Premier Social Entrepreneurship Competition

Is a social entrepreneurship competition aiming to bring together social entrepreneurs, students, NGOs, innovators, incubators, corporations and financiers and encourage them to come up with innovative ideas which are socially relevant and feasible.

Website: <http://genesis.iitm.ac.in/>

Jobs and Careers

Weitzenegger's International Development Job Market

Website: www.weitzenegger.de/new/jobmarket.php

Global Knowledge Initiative

The Global Knowledge Initiative seeks to build global knowledge partnerships between individuals and institutions of higher education and research. It seeks to help partners access the global knowledge, technology, and human resources needed to sustain growth and achieve prosperity for all."

Website: www.globalknowledgeinitiative.org/

ExportHelp - Promoting and supporting access to the European market

The European Commission runs a database for the explicit support of market players in developing countries who want to bring their products to the EU market. The database gives an overview on the EU's preferential trade regimes established for developing countries as well as lists all tariffs, taxes and other requirements for goods imported into the EU.

Website: <http://exporthelp.europa.eu>

Development Executive Group Devex Networking Website

Over 90,000 global experts can network and connect and learn about more than 47,000 registered projects.

Website: www.devex.org

Website Offers Career Advice to Young Africans

Set up by the Commonwealth Secretariat, Africancareerguidance.com is aimed at providing career guidance to African youth and helping them to link with prospective employers. AfricaRecruit is a human resources organization that provides skills training for African professionals in the Diaspora and on the continent. The website has an inbuilt email subscriber list for all its users and offers a searchable database of career profiles for job seekers and prospective employers. It also offers skills and interest assessments and advice on CV and résumé preparation. It provides tips about interviewing techniques, as well as information on internship and volunteer opportunities, and entrepreneurial skills.

Website: www.africancareerguidance.com

African Diaspora Skills Database

This database was compiled to provide an overview of qualified African Diaspora professionals with varied areas of expertise and experience. The African Diaspora contributes substantially to the social, economic and political development of Africa, and this database is set up to further mobilize this considerable potential.

Website: www.diaspora-centre.org/NEWSLETTER/Database

Aid Workers Network (AWN)

Aid Workers Network (AWN) is an online platform for aid, relief and development workers to ask and answer questions of each other, and to exchange resources and information. AWN is registered in the United Kingdom as a charity. You will find discussions about a range of questions and issues on the AWN forum from aid, relief and development workers all over the world and representing a variety of fields, with new threads or responses posted daily. The forum is a great way to get in contact with other aid and development workers in your geographic area or working in a similar area of work.

Website: www.aidworkers.net

Bizzlounge

Bizzlounge is where people committed to ethical behaviour meet, who want to establish and maintain business contacts in an exclusive and relaxed environment.

Website: <http://bizzlounge.com>

Business Action for Africa

Business Action for Africa is a network of businesses and business organizations working collectively to accelerate growth and poverty reduction in Africa.

Website: <http://businessactionforafrica.blogspot.com> .

Business Fights Poverty

Business Fights Poverty is a professional network for all those passionate about fighting world poverty through the power of good business.

Website: <http://businessfightspovetry.ning.com>

Business in Development Network (BiD)

The BiD Network Foundation runs the BiD Challenge to contribute to sustainable economic development by stimulating entrepreneurship in developing countries.

Website: www.bidnetwork.org

Zunia

By Development Exchange, it offers news, publications and networking opportunities with the world's development community.

Website: www.zunia.org

Catalogue of Poverty Networks

UNDP is organizing an online catalogue of Poverty Networks as a means to facilitate access to knowledge and sharing this to a wider audience in 189 countries. Poverty Networks are web-based platforms that provide space for sharing and disseminating development-related information and initiatives. Below you will find information on IPC's collaborating networks, which help foster dialogue between researchers, policymakers, civil society and multilateral organizations.

Website: www.undp-povertycentre.org/povnet.do

Connections for Development (CfD)

CfD is a UK, Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) led, membership based organization committed to ensuring that UK BME communities, and the organizations they are involved in, are supported in the process of shaping and delivering policy and projects that affect their countries of origin or interest – collectively "our world".

Website: www.cfdnetwork.co.uk

Development Crossing

Development Crossing was set up in 2006 by a small group of friends with diverse backgrounds ranging from business consulting to international development. In a world where the environment, corporate responsibility, and sustainable development are becoming increasingly intertwined, our goal was to create a site where individuals that shared our passion could keep up-to-date with relevant happenings in the world and connect with like-minded individuals. The idea behind Development Crossing is to provide a social network that brings together people from a variety of sectors, countries and professions to discuss corporate social responsibility and sustainable development.

Website: www.developmentcrossing.com

DevelopmentAid.org

The one-stop-information-shop for the developmental sector, DevelopmentAid.org is a membership organization that brings together information for developmental professionals, NGOs, consultancy firms and donors.

Website: www.developmentaid.org

dgCommunities on the Development Gateway (Zunia.org)

Zunia.org, a free online service by the Development Gateway Foundation is devoted to knowledge-sharing and collaboration for people working to reduce poverty in the developing world.

Website: <http://topics.developmentgateway.org>

Diaspora African Forum

This Forum exists "to invite and encourage the full participation of Africans in the Diaspora in the building of the African Union, in its capacity as an important part of the Continent". We will provide the vital linkage for Diaspora Africans to become involved in Africa's development as well as reap the fruits of African unity.

Website: www.diasporafricanforum.org

Business Planet: a new data map on Entrepreneurship

Business Planet, an interactive Google map, now includes data on new business creation around the world. Measures of entrepreneurial activity are based on the number of total and newly registered corporations. Click on colour markers to learn more about each country.

Website: <http://rru.worldbank.org/businessplanet/default.aspx?pid=8>